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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 GEORGE 00496 012251Z 7994
ACTION OCI-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-15 ISO-00 L-03 H-02 JUSE-00 FBIE-00
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R 011255Z FEB 79
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8884

UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 0496

E.O. 12065: NA
TAGS: CARR (BEIKMAN, CHARLES), (JONES, STEPHAN), (PEOPLE'S TEMPLE)
SUBJ: W/W ARRESTS: STEPHAN JONES AND CHARLES BEIKMAN

REF: GEORGETOWN 497

1. DURING PRELIMINARY INQUIRY ON JANUARY 30 INTO DEATHS OF LINDA SHARON HARRIS (AKA SHARON AMOS) ET AL, MAGISTRATE PERSUAD RULED THAT UNDER RELEVANT CASE LAW AND GUYANESE STATUTORY LAW NINE-YEAR OLD STEPHANIE JONES WAS NOT COMPETENT TO GIVE SWORN TESTIMONY, EITHER UNDER
OATH OR AFFIRMATION. PERSAUD SAID SHE COULD NOT BE INSTRUCTED IN GOD PRIOR TO TAKING AN OATH BECAUSE SHE DOES NOT BELIEVE IN GOD. PRESAUD CONCLUDED THAT STEPHANIE COULD GIVE EVIDENCE IN COURT, BUT THAT HER TESTIMONY WOULD HAVE TO BE UNSWORN.

2. TWO PERSONS GAVE TESTIMONY AT THE JANUARY 30 SESSION. A POLICE CORPORAL TESTIFIED THAT HE SEARCHED JIM JONES' JONESTOWN RESIDENCE ON

DECEMBER 5, 1978 AND FOUND A NOTE SIGNED BY BEIKMAN PLEDGING LOYALTY TO
THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE LEADER. DETECTIVE ASSIANT SUPT. LAM WAS RECALLED BY THE PROSECUTION TO GIVE ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY. LAM WAS CROSS-EXAMINED BY SENIOR COUNSEL REX MCKAY.

3. INQUIRY IS SCHEDULED TO RESUME FREBRUARY 1, ON WHICH DATE MAGISTRATE PERSAUD IS EXPECTED TO GIVE HIS RULING ON THE ADMISSIBILITY OF BEIKMAN'S STATEMENT TO THE POLICE. WEITHERS SAID IN COURT THAT HE EXPECTS TO CONCLUDE THE STATE'S CASE ON FEBRUARY 1
BURKE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

DATE 2/27/81

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